

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9244
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: ALIANZA POPULAR HOLDS CONVENTION

1. THE CONSERVATIVE ALIANZA POPULAR HELD ITS FIRST
NATIONAL CONVENTION MARCH 5-6, FORMALLY CONSTITUTING ITSELF
AS A FEDERATION (FOLLOWING AGREEMENT REACHED JUST BEFOREHAND
AT CONVENTIONS OF ITS SEVEN COMPONENTS) AND SEEING FIVE
OF THE SEVEN AGREE IN PRINCIPLE ON FUSION INTO ONE PARTY.
THE TWO HOLD-OUTS WERE THE ADE (ACCION DEMOCRATICA ESPANOLA)
OF EX-PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER FEDERICO SILVA MUNOZ, WHO CITED
THE DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING THE IDEOLOGICAL IDENTITY OF
HIS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP, AND THE UDE (UNION NACIONAL
ESPANOLA) OF RIGHT-WING IDEOLOGUE GONZALO FERNANDEZ DE LA
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MORA, PRESUMABLY FOR REASONS HAVING TO DO WITH THAT
GROUP'S POSITION AS AP'S MOST ULTRAMONTANE ELEMENT.

2. NOTABLE DURING THE CONVENTION WERE BOTH THE CROWD'S
SIZE, FILLING TO OVERFLOW BOTH AUDITORIUMS OF A LARGE
CONVENTION HALL, AND ITS FERVOR. IN TRUE PARTY CONVENTION
STYLE, IT FREQUENTLY INTERRUPTED SPEAKERS WITH APPLAUSE

AND CHEERS, WHILE IN THE LOBBY, TABLES SELLING MATCHES, PENS, CIGARETTE LIGHTERS AND LAPEL PINS WITH THE PARTY LABEL APPEARED TO DO A BRISK BUSINESS.

3. SPEAKERS WERE DEFENSIVE BUT UNREPENTANT ABOUT THE AP'S DECLAREDLY CONSERVATIVE POSITION, STOUTLY ASSERTING THE PAST WAS NO CAUSE FOR SHAME AND REJECTING ATTACKS ON FRANCO (BOTH POINTS INVARIABLY DREW FERVENT APPLAUSE, WITH SCATTERED GROUPS CHANTING "FRANCO, FRANCO") WHILE TAKING PAINS TO POINT OUT THE ALLIANCE'S SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, FREE LABOR UNIONS, EQUALITY FOR WOMEN, ETC. RESOLUTIONS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE KING AND CONDEMNING THE RECENT EUROCOMMUNISM SUMMIT IN MADRID (ONE SPEAKER REFERRED TO "EUROPHEMISM") WERE APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION.

4. PRESS TREATMENT OF THE EVENT FOLLOWED EACH PAPER'S ESTABLISHED INCLINATIONS, WITH ABC SUPPORTIVE, YA AND EL PAIS STRAIGHTFORWARD, AND DIARIO 16 LAYING INTO THE AP AS "NEOFRANCOIST".EATON

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